

DOWN WITH THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN -- Quito, Accion [Socialist], 4 Jun 65

[According to this confusing and elliptical article, Philippe Guignabaudet, an adviser to the Ecuadoran Minister of Finance, wrote a classified study critical of US-Ecuadoran economic relations, and gave a copy of it to a man named Flint. Flint went to Havana and passed the document on to the Cubans. A Mr. Butledge, said to be an employee of the US Embassy in Paris, is alleged to have known about the entire transaction.]

We are not going to say that the best thing that could have happened to Ecuador is being the friend of the United States. However, in the international policy of Ecuador, keeping the friendship of the United States is healthy. We do not say that we should be a colony of the United States; we should not be anybody's colony. However, there are many positive aspects in US-Ecuadoran relations. Undoubtedly, much has to be revised and improved in economic relations with the United States. It is dangerous to say that the United States is trying to sink Ecuador, that it is trying to provoke a break with Ecuador.

A somewhat facetious document, one of the most violent criticisms against the United States, is circulating widely. It is the Study of the Financing of the General Plan for Economic and Social Development by economist Philippe Guignabaudet, adviser to the Minister of Finance.

If he is going to criticize government policy, he should refrain from criticizing it with anybody he meets and from distributing copies of the study at random. What if this study has been given to foreigners who should not know about internal criticism -- which whether it be good or bad, should be private -- of government policy? What if the brilliant critic Guignabaudet has confided in the doubtful agent of Dr. Joseph Wentland? And what if Wentland's agent has received instructions to travel to Ecuador where he expects the government, in the words of Wentland, "to swallow" impossible conditions in the business of ships, a business repudiated by the agents themselves who, until they knew what it was all about, were almost the first to fall into the trap?

It is a scheme to try to weaken US-Ecuadoran relations. Robert Butledge, one of the attaches of the US Embassy in Paris, is one of the innocent victims of the maneuverings to bring about a split in the relations between some Latin American countries and the United States.